

REMARKS

Receipt of the Office Action of January 11, 2007 is gratefully acknowledged.

Claims 15 - 28 have been examined and claims 18, 20 and 22 - 28 have been objected to because certain terms lacked antecedent basis. To overcome this objection the listed claims have been amended to provide the necessary antecedent basis.

The drawings are objected to because English legends are missing from Fig. 2. In reply thereto, a Replacement Sheet for Fig. 2 is being submitted herewith which now includes English legends.

The rejection of claims 15 - 22 and 25 - 28 under 35 USC 102(b) by Drete et al, and the rejection of claims 23 and 24 under 35 USC 103(a) over Drete et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

It should be noted that Drete et al only works for characters and not numbers. The invention here relates to process data and as such relates to numerical processing, quite unlike Drete et al. To make this point clearer, claims 15, 17 and 19 have been combined in claim 15 as amended. Note the reference in claim 15 as amended to "binary state values." This reference does not relate to characters.

Claim 26 also recited the process data distinction. This distinction in conjunction with the recitation of a field device excludes characters because field

U.S. Patent Appl. 10/506,828

devices which provide information as to process variables all function with numerical data and not characters. Those skilled in the art are aware of this difference.

It should be noted that the claims as now presented have been allowed in the corresponding European application based upon the distinction noted above.

In view of the foregoing, the examiner is urged to reconsider and re-examine this application with the amended claims and advance a finding that claims 15, 16, 18 and 20 - 28 are allowed.

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Respectfully submitted,

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